



Week 3, Day 3

READING:

I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

Philippians 3:12-14

God is often at work in the epicenter of our discontentment. In Philippians 3, Paul wants us to lay down the things of our past and be willing to strive forward with Jesus Christ. We often want to reach into our past as the best parts of our lives and make them come back, but we can't. The past is gone, but God has a plan for our future. When people tell their amazing stories, a season of pain is usually at the center of the story. It is where God can do His greatest work.

We were **not** created to be completely self-sufficient. It's OK to be dependent on God!

Culture has an enormous impact on our ability and willingness to reach out to others for help. Collectivist cultures place an emphasis on helping each other, while individualist cultures place the emphasis on taking care of one's personal needs—often at the exclusion of others. Persons raised in an individualist environment tend to strive to be self-sufficient. Their counterparts in collectivist cultures, on the other hand, recognize the shared roles they play in each other's lives. God did not create us to be self-focused but to help each other in times of need.

Through helping each other, we receive a glimpse of God's love and caring for us.

CONSIDER THIS:

- Which type of culture have you been impacted by: collectivist or individualist?

- How has your culture impacted your ability to ask for help from others? From God?
- If you were to ask God for help, what specifically would you ask him to do?

TAKE ACTION:

Determine today to rely on God to help you appropriately deal with those things that are causing you despair. As you commit to rely on God, also commit to focus on praying for others who are struggling with despair in their lives as well. Join Celebrate Recovery or our Now What Short-Term group to have conversations with others who are facing similar seasons of life as you are. You are not alone.

What would it look like for you to trust God in this season of your life and choose to be faithful right where God has you?

FOR FURTHER STUDY: Read [Philippians 3](#)

QUESTION TO CONSIDER:

Paul talks about our citizenship being in heaven. How does that make a difference in our “now what” seasons?